ABSTRACT

The present invention makes it possible to efficiently transmit data for statistical multiplexing which is required for control using statistical multiplexing. By utilizing private packets, respective encoding devices transmit encoding difficulties serving as the data for statistical multiplexing to a multiplexer (4) via the same transmission channels as encoded video data and audio data are transmitted. The multiplexer (4) conducts multiplexing processing on data supplied from the respective encoding devices at a first rate R1 larger than a transmission rate on a transmission channel of a subsequent stage, and outputs a transport stream (TS_d) including the private packets to a statistical multiplexing computer. In addition, the multiplexer (4) conducts multiplexing processing on data obtained by removing the private packets, at a second rate R2 which is equal to the transmission rate on the transmission channel of the subsequent stage, and outputs a transport stream (TS_m) which does not include the private packets to the transmission channel of the subsequent stage.